

these skills and these faculties will serve you well in all the years ahead. In your attainments, you merit the commendation and the good wishes of all of us.

And next, as the Governor of Maryland and representing its people here today, it is appropriate that I offer recognition to Towson State College on its one-hundredth birthday. Towson is the oldest and the largest of the institutions in our State college system and figures prominently in our plans for the future development of our system of public higher education. It is fitting, therefore, that as she enters the second century of her existence we offer her the tribute she so well deserves for the part she has played in the cultural, social and economic development of our great State over the past one-hundred years.

Many times in the past I have said that it is my purpose and the purpose of my Administration, to create the kind of public educational system that will offer Marylanders the best education that is available. This was no empty oratorical gesture on my part, I assure you. On the contrary, I can think of no legacy that I would rather leave the people who have honored me with the highest political office of the State than an educational system so soundly and so strongly based as to assure that this purpose will be fulfilled.

Regardless of what the uninformed circles may say, I firmly believe that the foundation for such a system has been laid. There is an abundance of evidence that points to that conclusion: the tremendous expansion in physical plant, vast increases in appropriations for operating expenses, increased emphasis upon the quality of teachers at all levels, expansion of scholarship programs, and so on. I can think of no better proof of the progress made during the past few years.

Perhaps no single accomplishment speaks out more clearly our determination to reach our goal of the best education available than the reorganization of our system of public higher education which took place in 1963. I refer, of course, to the inauguration of the so-called tri-partite system of public higher education with a framework involving the University of Maryland, with its branches; the state colleges and the community colleges. This college, as you know, fits into the pattern as a part of the State college system, and it is this aspect of our three-par program that I should like to discuss with you in some detail today.

In the broadest sense, it is the role of the State colleges to be re-